

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00362 111911Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 /045 W
-----111957Z 012008 /43
R 111436Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1726
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0362

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, TO
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY SESSION ILO GOVERNING BODY

REF: STATE 028274

1. ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, I CALLED ON NEWLY-
APPOINTED MINISTER OF LABOR ISSA SAMA. DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF LABOR AFFAIRS SONDE SANGBANA ALSO
PRESENT. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT TRANS-
LATION OF AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH PERMITTED ME TO
SUPPLY BOTH WITH COPIES. ALSO MADE ORALLY
PRINCIPAL POINTS PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL.
SAMA SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS ON NEED FOR FRIENDLY
CONSULTATIONS AND WAS QUICK TO ECHO IDEA OF
DESIRABILITY OF TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE ILO
ESCHEWING POLITICS AND STICKING TO BUSINESS.
WE TOOK SANGBANA ASIDE AFTER MEETING TO IMPRESS
ON HIM NEED TO BRING NEW MINISTER UP TO SPEED
ON HISTORY ILO SINCE 1974; HE PROMISED TO BRIEF
MINISTER ON U.S. LETTER OF INTENT. SAMA SAID
HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER AGAIN WITH EMBASSY AFTER
HE HAD CHANCE TO READ AIDE-MEMOIRE AND
STUDY ISSUES.

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2. SANGBANA LEAVES THIS EVENING, FEBRUARY 11,
FOR GENEVA AND WILL REPRESENT TOGO UNTIL ARRIVAL
OF SAMA IN LATE FEBRUARY. HE IS VETERAN OF
ILO MEETINGS, COMPETENT, AND APPROACHABLE, BUT
UNABLE TO ACT WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON NON-TECHNICAL
MATTERS. IF SAMA FOLLOWS ESTABLISHED PATTERN, HE
WILL DECIDE GOT POSITION HIMSELF OR PASS QUESTION

TO PRESIDENT. MFA SELDOM HAS EFFECTIVE INPUT,
EVEN ON POLITICAL ISSUES, INTO TOGOLESE POSITIONS

IN SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HANELED
BY OTHER MINISTRIES. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, WILL PRESENT
AIDE-MEMOIRE TO MFA FOR RECORD.

3. SAMA IS SHORT AND ROUND IN FACE AND BODY. HE
HAS A READY LAUGH AND OPEN MANNER. GENEVA MEETING
WILL BE FIRST EXPOSURE TO INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS;
HE WAS UNTIL LAST MONTH DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS AT LOME
PORT. HE IMPRESSES US AS INTELLIGENT AND SERIOUS
ABOUT HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, AND BELIEVE
USDEL WILL FIND HIM APPROACHABLE AND WORTH
CULTIVATING. HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH.
PALMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LOME00362
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770050-0024
Format: TEL
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770250/aaaabsji.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbf2f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 28274
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3344444
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEBRUARY SESSION ILO GOVERNING BODY
TAGS: ELAB, TO, US, ILO, (SANGBANA, SONDE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbf2f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009